AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In the Claims

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending independent claims 1, 14, 21, 25, and 29.

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1.   (Twice Amended)   In a cable data delivery network for delivering digital data to a host location upon a subscriber initiated request, apparatus for authenticating that the subscriber is authorized to use said network, said apparatus comprising:

a network manager including at least one database of authorized users and a validation agent, said validation agent further comprising:

logic to authorize the subscriber to access a first communications path by comparing first identification information with at least part of the at least one database, the first identification information being received from the subscriber, the first communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the host location and a head end of the cable data delivery network; and

logic to authorize the subscriber to access a second communications path by comparing second

identification information with at least part of the at least one database, the second identification information being received from the subscriber and being different from the first identification information, the second communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the host location and the head end of the cable data delivery network.

14. (Once Amended)   A method of authorizing a subscriber to access a first communications path and a second communications path, the first communications path and the second communications path utilized in conveying data between a head end and the subscriber of a cable data network, the method comprising the steps of:

authorizing the subscriber to access the first communications path by comparing first identification information with at least part of at least one database, the first identification information being received from the subscriber; and

authorizing the subscriber to access the second communications path by comparing second identification information with at least part of the at least one database, the second identification information being received from the subscriber and being different from the first identification information.

21.   (Once Amended)   An apparatus utilized in authorizing a subscriber to access a cable data network at a first level of service and a second level of service, the cable data network providing connectivity between a head end and the subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

logic configured to authorize the subscriber to access the cable data network at the first level of service by comparing first identification information with at least part of at least one database, the first identification information being received from the subscriber; and

logic configured to authorize the subscriber to access the cable data network at the second level of service by comparing second identification information with at least part of the at least one database, the second identification information being received from the subscriber and being different from the first identification information.

25.   (Once Amended)   A method of authorizing a subscriber to access a cable data network at a first level of service and a second level of service, the cable data network providing connectivity between a head end and the subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

    authorizing the subscriber to access the cable data network at the first level of service by comparing first identification information with at least part of at least one database, the first identification information being received from the subscriber; and

    authorizing the subscriber to access the cable data network at the second level of service by comparing second identification information with at least part of the at least one database, the second identification information being received from the subscriber and being different from the first identification information.

29.   (Once Amended)   A method of logging into a cable data network that has a plurality of levels of service, the method comprising the steps of:

    logging into the cable data network at a first level of service by sending first identification information to at least one validation agent; and

    logging into the cable data network at a second level of service by sending second identification information to the at least one validation agent, the second identification information being different from the first identification information.